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# Fort Wayne as Text: The Past Welcoming the Present

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Fort Wayne as Text: The Past Welcoming the Present  
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Although cities change and progress with each passing day, it is important to look back to their history and consider how these communities developed. Important also, is the way we define community: a group, which seeks to inspire, educate, and elevate all of its individuals, who share a common space and/or interest; thus, a team of people working together for the benefit of all. One of the most prominent characteristics that Fort Wayne and Chicago share is that every new chapter of their growth incorporates their rich history. More specifically, much like Chicago, the new and developing architecture and the cityscape of Fort Wayne is based on the old. Just as Chicago does, Fort Wayne integrates its past into the city's innovative and fresh directions instead of just demolishing it

Consider these three examples: The Grand Wayne Center, located downtown, has been an integral part of Fort Wayne for 25 years. This convention center recently underwent renovation and expansion in efforts to attract bigger venues and better serve the community of Fort Wayne.

The Embassy Theater is now home to the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. However, elegant use of the art deco design dates back to the original Emboyd Theater and Hotel, which was opened in May of 1928. Although The Embassy has seen many renovations and modern modifications, the theater still holds many of its original qualities.

The River Greenway, a community oriented development, has been a part of Fort Wayne since its origin along the three rivers: St. Mary's, St. Joe, and Maumee. Although the people of Fort Wayne officially began documenting the trails starting in the mid-1970's, the three rivers have always been an integral part of both travel and community in Fort Wayne. The trails now span a reported 40 miles from Southwestern Allen County to New Haven, linking the history and nature of this great city along the way.

These three magnificent landmarks, along with countless other attractions, help create the strong sense of community and history that is Fort Wayne.